

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00657 111505Z

41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-11 /086 W

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R 092230Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2807

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORMS

REFS: (A) STATE 18860, (B) STATE 22439

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. I DISCUSSED OAS CHARTER REFORM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO TODAY AFTER HE HAD HAD TIME TO STUDY NOTES LEFT WITH HIM LAST WEEK BASED ON REFTELS.
2. FACIO EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR OBVIOUS CARE, THOUGHTFULNESS AND THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH U.S. HAD APPROACHED PROBLEM OF CHARTER REFORM. HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH ITS AIMS, OVER-ALL APPROACH AND PRACTICALLY ALL SPECIFIC POINTS. HE SUGGESTED AMENDMENT ON ONLY TWO POINTS. FIRST, HE THOUGHT THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD MEET EVERY SIX MONTHS INSTEAD OF ONCE A YEAR. SECOND, HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE MADE SPECIFIC THAT TECHNICIANS WOULD NOT HAVE FINAL WORD ON APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE LEFT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE CONSIDERED THIS MOST IMPORTANT SINCE TECHNICIANS OFTEN TAKE A NARROW APPROACH TO PROBLEMS WITHOUT GIVING FULL WEIGHT TO IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. FACIO THOUGHT THAT GIVEN FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF CHANGES

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00657 111505Z

BEING PROPOSED THERE SHOULD BE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE

PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE TIME MAY BE APPROPRIATE ALSO TO GIVE MORE THOUGHT TO WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WHICH IS PRESUMED SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA. HE THOUGHT THAT REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS WOULD HELP GREATLY TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HELP IT TO FUNCTION IN A MORE MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE WAY.

4. FACIO SAID THAT BECAUSE OF RADICAL NATURE OF PROPOSED CHANGES, OPPOSITION CAN BE EXPECTED TO A NUMBER OF THEM, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND THE NEW PROPOSALS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, AND CAREFUL THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO TACTICS OF GETTING THEM APPROVED.

5. FINALLY, FACIO REMARKED THAT HE WAS GIVING ME HIS PRELIMINARY REACTIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE FAVORABLE TO THE U.S. PROPOSALS, AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED AND SPECIFIC COMMENTS IN WRITING LATER. TODMAN

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